

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 4-6 and 8 is noted with appreciation.

Newly added claim 11 replaces cancelled claim 10 to define the invention more precisely with respect to Pilao '339. Claim 11 is directed to that aspect of the invention in which blades and spacers are cut on a line that intersects with blade notches so that the ends of cut blades are tapered. Specifically, claim 11 recites three blades of predetermined length, i.e., a first blade having a tapered end, a second blade of said predetermined length having an end notch defined by a tapered shoulder, and a third blade of said predetermined length having a center notch defined by tapered shoulders. A cut on a line that intersects the notches of the second and third blades results in the second and third blades along with the first blade having tapered ends.

Pilao does not disclose blade notches of any kind and does not in any way suggest the use of notches. Pilao does not disclose or suggest applicant's invention of bar set clusters in which a cluster of blades is cut in two pieces during manufacture. Consequently, there is no apparent reason stated or suggested by Pilao for notching blades as recited in claim 11 and if there is no reason for doing so in the reference there can be no design choice involved.

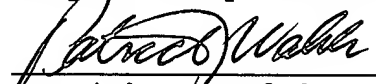
The examiner is urged to allow claim 11 and to pass the

case to issue.

In the event the Examiner persists in any of the rejections, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney for applicant in order to discuss the application and to expedite prosecution thereof.

Stamford, Connecticut  
April 15, 2004

Respectfully submitted,


  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached document was sent via the United States Postal Service this 15th day of April 2004 in a first class postage prepaid envelope addressed to the Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Stamford, Connecticut  
15 April 2004

Patrick J Walsh

  
Attorney of Record  
Date: 4-15-04